altered that we might coast well outside along the reef. Night fell. There were, for an hour or so, occasional stars before the mists blew off and revealed them in their glory. I tried to sleep, but the romance of it held me and at last I made my way forrard to see all that might be seen.

I tucked myself into the bows and hung there, now swung high over the lengthening rollers, now carried down to the dark hissing waters. The native seamen clustered in little groups, smoking, talking a little, but mostly silent. Occasionally a match spluttered. The steersman gripped the wheel right aft, and, balanced on the top of the saloon, the skipper directed him with waves of the hand. In the starlight I could see them quite plainly except when some roll of the mast hid them for a moment. Presently a hand was sent up the ratlines to get a better view and he swung there

hour by hour, calling, in melodious Tahitian, the various sailing points.

A light gleamed : Point Venus, We stood out across the bay of Matavai. As we neared the farther head round which lies Papeete more lights gleamed of fishermen on the reef and in canoes.